

Dear Secretary. Chu,

I would like to support the reestablishment of the Energy Conservation Budget that Western Area Power Administration had prior to Administrator removal of the \$9 million dollar budget in 1995 without public comment.

I would like to support to following recommendation”

Establish a position within Western’s Renewable Resource Program office to be a Renewable Energy Liaison for facilitating renewable energy interconnection to Western’s transmission system for Native American tribes and other customers and stakeholders. Undertake proactive measures to facilitate and encourage the interconnection and integration of renewable energy projects into the Federal transmission system. A number of customers are unfamiliar with the opportunities and the processes to interconnect renewable projects to the Federal transmission system. Assisting in the identification of feasible, cost-effective renewable energy projects as well as assisting stakeholders and customers better understand and navigate Western’s processes could assist customers, tribes, and stakeholders, e.g., renewable generation developers and Federal generation agencies, interested in interconnecting to the Federal transmission system by:

Conducting focus group meetings and facilitating customer, tribal, and stakeholder collaboration to identify renewable initiatives/renewable integration opportunities

Facilitating the evaluation of the benefits of thermal integration with Federal hydropower that could provide Western with a more diverse portfolio for operations and support greater amounts of variable resources

Western, working through the PMMC, could identify supplemental power needs, price points, delivery specifics, etc. and collaboratively work with preference power customers to identify opportunities that could include renewable integration/purchases when economically feasible

Forming a Western-wide Variable Energy Resource Assessment Team consisting of staff from all functional areas that works collaboratively with Western’s Renewable Resource Program to identify Western’s constraints, design mitigation strategies, and provide customer support and using part of the funds to support Wind for

Schools ([http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/schools\\_wfs\\_project.asp](http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/schools_wfs_project.asp)) in Western footprint.

Donavon Decker